



## Minnesota's 4th District **E-Report!**

**Congresswoman Betty McCollum**

*"Serving Minnesota's Families"*



MARCH 28, 2003

### **Hot News!**

#### **McCollum Urges Hearing on Academy Assaults**

Rep. McCollum has called on the House Armed Services Committee to convene an immediate hearing to investigate sexual assault violations at the United States Military Academies.

In a letter to Chairman Duncan Hunter (R-CA) and Ranking Member Ike Skelton (D-MO), McCollum said the Department of Defense has failed to protect women from sexual harassment and assault at U.S. Military Academies.

"One of the most important jobs for a Member of Congress is to select the best and brightest women and men to attend our military academies. These young women and men represent our military, political and community leaders. Their conduct, safety and security is our collective responsibility, and I take very seriously my role in ensuring their education at these academies are devoid of unnecessary hazard," said McCollum.

#### **Achieving Our IDEA**

Rep. Betty McCollum has introduced the Achieving Our IDEA Act of 2003. The legislation will help to hold the line on local property taxes and ensure schools have adequate funding by requiring the federal government to meet its funding commitment through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

"Since 1975, the federal government has failed to keep its promise to pay 40% of required special education funding. As a result, the gap in funding has been a burden shifted onto schools and local taxpayers, forcing communities to hold referendums and schools to cut services to children," said Congresswoman McCollum.

By 2009, Minnesota would receive \$396 million annually in special education funding through McCollum's bill.



*Pictured with Rep. McCollum from left to right are, Dianna Brooks, Ana Ruiz, Kirsten Sutherland, Crischelle Navalta. The four young women are students at Hamline University in St. Paul and are representatives from the Office of Service Learning and Volunteerism. They discussed the issue of homelessness with Rep. McCollum.*

#### **In Betty's Words**

"We now are reclaiming our relationship with the mighty Mississippi. In preparing to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Grand Excursion, communities all along the 419-mile route are redeveloping their riverfronts and improving our quality of life. The Grand Excursion's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration is an opportunity to learn about the Mississippi and what we need to do to protect it for future generations. The Mississippi is America's river. It's also a working river and a river that works. Thousands of jobs and livelihoods are connected to it."

**-- Floor Statement commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Grand Excursion; March 26, 2003**

**Contact Congresswoman Betty McCollum . . . [www.house.gov/mccollum/contact.html](http://www.house.gov/mccollum/contact.html)**

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